



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

July 6, 1998

H.R. 3007

Commission on the Advancement of Women and Minorities in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce
on June 24, 1998*

H.R. 3007 would establish an 11-member commission to study the barriers that face women and minorities in the fields of science, engineering, and technology. The bill would direct the commission to evaluate the current status of women, minorities, and individuals with disabilities in these fields and examine both successful and unsuccessful programs that encourage such individuals to pursue careers in those fields. The commission would have the authority to conduct hearings and to contract with various private or government agencies or individuals to collect information. The bill would direct the commission to hire a director and appoint additional personnel and would require it to submit a report within one year after its members are appointed.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 3007 would cost approximately \$1 million over the 1999-2000 period. Based on information provided by the National Science Foundation and other commissions, CBO assumes that the commission would hire a small staff and seek assistance from outside consultants to compile and analyze the information. Because the report would have to be completed within one year, we also expect that the commission would rely heavily upon available information. H.R. 3007 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

On May 21, 1998, CBO prepared a cost estimate for H.R. 3007, the Commission on the Advancement of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology Development Act, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on May 13, 1998. The Science Committee's version of the bill would authorize the commission to accept and use gifts and donations, which could affect receipts and direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go

procedures would apply to that version of H.R. 3007. The estimated discretionary cost of \$1 million over the next two years is the same for both versions of the bill.

The CBO staff contacts for this estimate are Joanna Wilson and Kathleen Gramp. This estimate was approved by Robert A. Sunshine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.